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Dated: September 7, 2006 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Anthony A. Laurentano)

Docket No.: IIW-032  
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Toshiaki Ariyoshi *et al.*

Application No.: 10/676060

Confirmation No.: 7744

Filed: October 3, 2003

Art Unit: 1745

For: FUEL CELL

Examiner: M. Ruthkosky

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed August 8, 2006 (Paper No. 20060803).

The Examiner has required restriction between the following species in the above-identified application:

Claim 1 is to a fuel cell with a plurality of cells, a plurality of separators with terminals on the same side of a fuel cell stack and processing circuit;

Claims 2 and 4 are to a fuel cell comprising terminal clusters and a plurality of connector modules; and

Claims 3 and 5 are to a fuel cell comprising a fuel cell stack including a plurality of clusters of cells and sheet form bodies.

Accordingly, Applicants hereby elect the Species of Claim 1 for continued examination, with traverse.

The Commissioner may require restriction if two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in a single application (37 CFR 1.142(a)). In the present case, although

Application No.: 10/676060

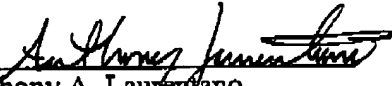
Docket No.: IIW-032

the claimed subject matter may be classified in different classes, the inventions are not independent. Applicants respectfully assert that a single search of pertinent prior art would appear to suffice for all aspects of the invention. Specifically, the various species appear to be so interrelated that a single examination would not appear to place a serious burden on the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant urges the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, and that all of the claims presently pending in this application be examined.

Dated: September 7, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Anthony A. Laurenzano  
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Attorney/Agent For Applicants

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**CENTRAL FAX CENTER****SEP 07 2006****DATE:** September 7, 2006**PTO IDENTIFIER:** Application Number 10/876060-Conf. #7744

Patent Number

**Inventor:** Toshiaki ARIYOSHI et al.**MESSAGE TO:** US Patent and Trademark Office**FAX NUMBER:** (571) 273-8300**FROM:** LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP  
ANTHONY A. LAURENTANO**PHONE:** (617) 227-7400**Attorney Dkt. #:** IIW-092**PAGES (Including Cover Sheet):** 5**CONTENTS:** Transmittal (1 page)  
Response to Restriction Requirement (with Traverse) (2 pages)  
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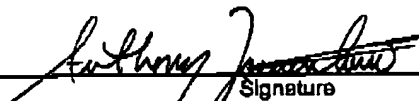
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Attorney Docket No.: IIW-032

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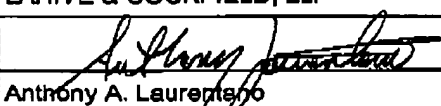
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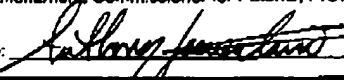
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	10/678060-Conf. #7744	
	Filing Date	October 3, 2003	
	First Named Inventor	Toshiaki ARIYOSHI	
	Art Unit	1745	
	Examiner Name	M. Ruthkosky	
Total Number of Pages In This Submission	4	Attorney Docket Number	IIW-032

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm Name	LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	Anthony A. Laurentano		
Date	September 7, 2006	Reg. No.	38,220

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